

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to urge you to seriously reconsider the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will eliminate or decrease video and broadband choices for consumers like me that live in areas for which satellite TV access is the SOLE option to provide service and because combining these companies will result in providing NO competition in the satellite field. I would be willing to support the merger in terms of it would provide an viable alternative to Broadband land based cable companies.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me local TV channels via satellite in my market area. Broadband access to the Internet is not available to me at this time. If the merger is approved, the new company will be able to provide me with affordable high-speed Internet access via satellite along with the other 40 million American households who do not have affordable high-speed Internet access now. I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

john halabrin
1635 lost angel road
boulder, CO 80302